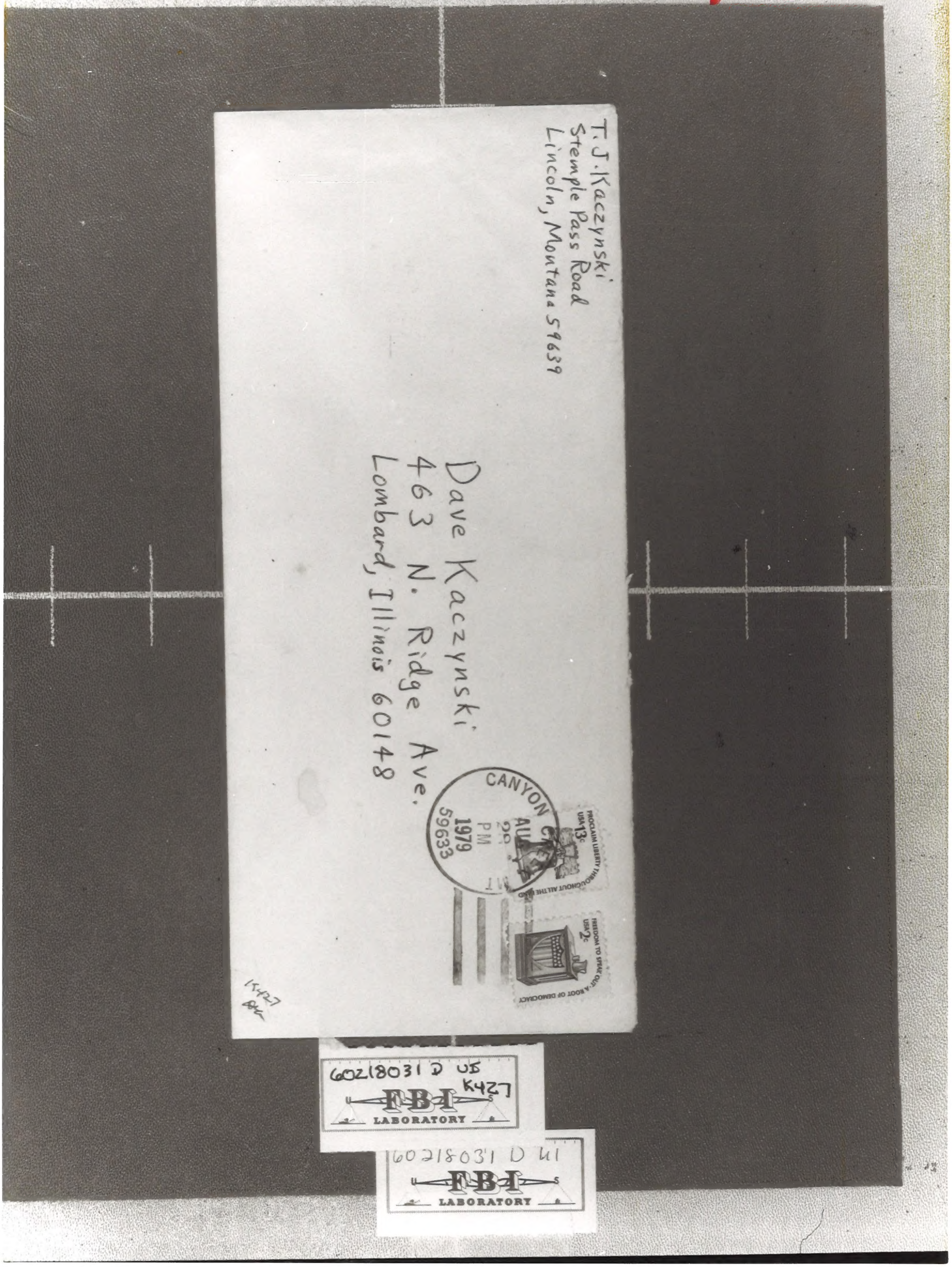
T-3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Dave —

I agree with your decision about not fishing for pure "sport". As for vegetarianism — I would just mention one thing in case you aren't aware of it. Vitamin B-12 is not obtainable from vegetable sources, so you have to eat meat or fish or milk or eggs or vitamin pills. It takes several years for vitamin B-12 deficiency symptoms to appear, but once they appear they are incurable. Also, I would respectfully suggest it is better to give up eating milk and eggs than to give up meat. In a commercial egg-production operation they keep the chickens in vast ranks of tiny cages, too small for the birds to turn around in. Feed goes in one end and eggs come out the other. If you think of the chickens in human terms, its worse than 1984. So far as I know, it's not that bad with milk cows — but they too are slaves.

I don't know if Epstein understands "wilderness" in our terms — but I did say in my letter to him that by "wilderness" I ~~ment~~ meant a place where our nearest neighbor would be 5 miles away air-line. As for Commies in Costa Rica — if we ever do go there, maybe by that time we will have better indications as to just what the commie situation is likely to be. I'm surprized to here that Costa Rica is English-speaking. But maybe ~~th~~ there are Spanish-speaking peasants in the hinterlands?

I would suggest you take the following steps regarding Costa Rica. (I hate to seem like I'm shoving work off on you, but when I go to Helena I have only 2 hours before bus leaves again, so I can't get much done.)

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(1) In Library, look up maps like we did before. The areas Epstein suggested were Meseta Central (near San Jose) and the Cordillera del Guanacoste. (If maps look promising, you might send me a Xerox copy of one if convenient.)

(2) If maps found in Library look good, you could visit that Rand McNally store downtown that the librarian told us about, and see if they have any really detailed maps.

(3) If can't get good enough maps that way, check if there is by any chance a Costa Rican Consulate in Chicago, then call or visit in person to find out where to get maps or other information.

I wish I could have played softball with you!

— Ted

P.S. In reply to my cartoon, Hoken sent me a copy of a "Red Sonja*" comic book, asserting that "to imaginative minds it drips of philosophical lessons".

In reply I sent him:

"I have no time** to listen to thy teaching, Zarathustra", said the small man, "For I must mow my lawn and tend my melons. I have no time to listen to prophecies. I have no time to be an arrow of longing for the farther shore."

"How then", answered Zarathustra, "hast thou time to read the book of a naked harlot pretending to be a hero? Knowest thou not that a dark cloud hangs over men and that even now are falling one by one the heavy drops that herald the lightning? What then signify thy lawnmowers and thy melons? Verily, thou art become as the last man." Thus spake Zarathustra — Nietsche, Zarathustra, part 5.

*An absurd female hero.

**Hoken wrote that he would read some ~~Nietsch~~ Nietzsche, except that he had no time cause he was too busy mowing his lawn, tending his melons, etc.

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